

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Optical coupling device for cross-coupling light from a first optical waveguide (2) into a second optical waveguide (10), ~~it being possible for the relative position of the two optical waveguide end faces in relation to each other to be influenced with the aid of~~ comprising:
 - a variable-length element (~~6, 26, 46, 66, 86~~) which holds the first optical waveguide, (2) and the variable-length element (~~6, 26, 46, 66, 86~~) being fixed via a first holding element block (~~8, 28, 48~~) to a structure containing the second optical waveguide; (10) and
 - having a guide device (18, 20) which permits the variable-length element (6, 26, 46, 66, 86) to lengthen only in a spatial direction oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the variable-length element, rigidly restrains the variable-length element from moving in either direction along a first axis oriented substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the variable-length element, and rigidly restrains the variable-length element from moving in at least one direction along a second axis oriented substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the variable-length element and the first axis.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Optical coupling device~~ Device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the guide device comprises ~~has~~ a second holding block fixed to the structure (~~20, 38, 54, 72~~) ~~as an abutment, on which the variable-length element (6, 26, 46, 66, 86) is guided parallel to its extension direction.~~
3. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the guide device further comprises ~~has~~ a ferrule (~~16~~) which is connected to the variable-length element (~~6~~) and is mounted in a hole in the second holding block (~~20~~) such that it can be displaced in the direction of the axis of the variable-length element in which the variation in length takes place.
4. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 3, ~~characterized in that the ferrule (16) is guided in the second holding block via a sleeve (18) .~~
5. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the guide device further comprises ~~has~~ a ferrule which is connected to the second holding block and is mounted in a hole in the variable-length element such that it can be displaced in the direction of the axis of the variable-length element in which the

variation in length takes place.

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim [[4]] 5, characterized in that the ferrule is guided in the variable-length element via a sleeve.
7. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim [[1]] 2, characterized in that the guide device is formed by a ~~groove (34) and tongue (36)~~ groove-and-tongue connection between the variable-length element (26) and the second holding block (38).
8. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim [[1]] 2, characterized in that the second holding block (54) has a U-shaped cross section, and in that the variable-length element (46) is guided in the U-shaped cross section of the second holding block (54).
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (New) Optical coupling device for cross-coupling light from a first optical waveguide into a second optical waveguide, it being possible for the relative position of the two optical waveguide end faces in relation to each other to be influenced with the aid of a variable-length element which holds the first optical waveguide and the variable-length element being fixed via a first holding block to a structure containing the second optical waveguide and having a guide device which permits the element to lengthen only in a spatial direction oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the element, characterized in that the guide device has a second holding block as an abutment, on which the variable-length element is guided parallel to its extension-direction and in that the guide device has a ferrule which is connected to the variable-length element and is mounted in a hole in the second holding block such that it can be displaced in the direction of the axis of the variable-length element in which the variation in length takes place.
12. (New) Device according to Claim 11, characterized in that the ferrule is guided in the second holding block via a sleeve.
13. (New) Optical coupling device for cross-coupling light from a first optical waveguide into a second optical waveguide, it being possible for the relative position of the two

optical waveguide end faces in relation to each other to be influenced with the aid of a variable-length element which holds the first optical waveguide and the variable-length element being fixed via a first holding block to a structure containing the second optical waveguide and having a guide device which permits the element to lengthen only in a spatial direction oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the element, characterized in that the guide device has a second holding block as an abutment, on which the variable-length element is guided parallel to its extension-direction and in that the guide device has a ferrule which is connected to the second holding block and is mounted in a hole in the variable-length element such that it can be displaced in the direction of the axis of the variable-length element in which the variation in length takes place.

14. (New) Device according to Claim 13, characterized in that the ferrule is guided in the second holding block via a sleeve.
15. (New) Optical coupling device for cross-coupling light from a first optical waveguide into a second optical waveguide, comprising:
 - a variable-length element which holds the first optical waveguide, the variable-length element being fixed via a first holding block to a structure containing the second optical waveguide; and
 - a guide device which permits the variable-length element to lengthen in a spatial direction oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the variable-length element and restrains the variable-length element from moving in either spatial direction along a first axis oriented substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the variable-length element, wherein the guide device is adjustable.
16. (New) Device according to Claim 15, wherein the guide device comprises an abutment fixed to the variable-length element, the abutment being coupled to the structure on one side with a spring and, on the other side, with a setting screw.